

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

MAC equipping future missionaries

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

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2005

While many in America are skeptical about teenagers and the contributions they make, the young ladies participating in the Mississippi Acteens Convention (MAC) would make believers out of anyone.

The Mississippi Acteens Convention, Souled Out, was held March 4-6 on the Mississippi College campus in Clinton. Over 380 participants, representing approximately 50 churches, attended the weekend event.

"Teenage girls come that aren't even involved in Acteens in their local churches," said Erica Harms, ministry assistant in the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU). "Sometimes, it was just a mother and daughter attending. Sometimes it was a group of 25."

"I'm a product of Acteens," Harms continued. "It was there that I first discovered my love for missions, and had my first experience with international missions with a trip to the Dominican Republic. Acteens is important because something like 80% of missionaries experience that call to missions while they are in high school. Seeing missionaries face-to-face and hearing their story makes all the difference."

The weekend consisted of a variety of activities, including worship celebrations, which utilized creative arts, music, prayer emphases, missionary messages, and participation by local church Acteens groups; an afternoon of hands-on ministry projects; and breakout sessions.

The breakout sessions were designed to give girls an opportunity to choose topics of personal interest. Sessions included



WORSHIP THROUGH DRAMA — The Joshua Squad, a mime troupe from Belhaven College, Jackson, offered ministry through pantomime during the Mississippi Acteens Convention at Mississippi College, Clinton, on March 4-6. (BR photo by Tony Martin)

spotlights on specific missionaries; discussion of issues facing junior high and senior high students; missions opportunities; and even a mime workshop.

"Girls were able to participate in workshops based on where they were on their personal journeys," said Harms. "They could talk openly about issues without their leaders being there."

The Saturday afternoon ministry projects were designed to give participants an opportunity to experience missions firsthand in inner-city Jackson. The response was so large, however, that some groups ministered in areas of Clinton.

The girls themselves showed a firm understanding of the role of Acteens in their lives. Lindsayann Anderson of Madison and a member of First Church, Jackson, said, "We're here to learn more about missions and to actually do missions here in the Jackson area."

Anderson and Lauren Clark, a member of First Church, Brandon, are both Acteens Panelists. Anderson and Clark have been active in Acteens since the seventh grade.

"We'll be doing ministry projects all over the Jackson area tomorrow [Saturday]," said Clark. "We'll be sorting clothes, working with Calvary Church in Jackson, and doing other work with children. I think some people are cleaning up yards, delivering food, just all sorts of things."

"Acteens is a very good way to serve God in a community," said Anderson. "Not only do we learn about missionar-

ies, but a lot of people decide that they are called to be missionaries themselves."

"Acteens is a way to grow spiritually," said Clark, "but on top of that, it's fun. I think every church should offer Acteens."

"The point of Acteens is to learn and live the missions lifestyle," said Anderson. Concerning being an Acteens panelist, she continued: "Being an Acteens panelist gives us the opportunity to plan the Acteens convention, to help teach others. We also travel to churches who are interested in having an Acteens program and help them get started."

"We visited a church a couple of weeks ago," said Clark, "and while they had an Acteens program, they really weren't sure what to do with it, and we were able to help them out."

Jansci Ward of Sartaria, a sophomore at William Carey College in Hattiesburg and a summer staffer at Camp Garaywa in Clinton, led one of the breakout sessions, Rolling Out the Red Carpet.

"The session deals with inner beauty and purity, just to help the girls live a godly life and have self-esteem from God," said Ward.

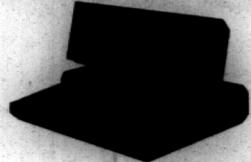
Early reports indicate that three girls were saved during the convention. The Mississippi Acteens Convention is supported by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program.

Upcoming events include Acteens Camp at Camp Garaywa on July 18-22 and July 25-29; and MissionsNOW, a co-ed missions weekender on March 3-5, 2006.



PRESENT AND FUTURE LEADERS — Acteens gives young women the opportunity to lead and prepare for future leadership. Acteens Panelists participating in the 2005 Mississippi Acteens Convention included Lauren Clark, Brandon, and Lindsayann Anderson, Madison. At right is Jansci Ward, Sartaria, a student at William Carey College and a summer staffer at Camp Garaywa in Clinton. (BR photo by Tony Martin)

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Science fiction in 1973; science fact in 2005

Soylent Green is the name of a bleak 1973 science fiction movie set in the dystopian world of 2020, where human overpopulation and depletion of the earth's natural resources have resulted in a world of hunger and desperation.

A jaded police detective named Thorn (portrayed by Charlton Heston) is assigned to investigate the gruesome murder of the head of Soylent Corporation, which manufactures synthetic food sold as Soylent Yellow, Soylent Red, and — its newest product — Soylent Green. Since the human horde has stripped the planet of all sources of food, the Soylent products are the only items left to eat.

The movie follows Detective Thorn's murder investigation and ultimately turns on his horrific discovery that humans are being turned into Soylent Green wafers and then fed to the remaining populace. "Soylent Green is people!" Thorn screams in the memorable final line of the movie.

Like many works of science fiction, Soylent Green is disturbingly prescient. For example, in the movie there are euthanasia centers where the elderly must go to die while today, a real battle rages over legalization of all such forms of euthanasia, including involuntary euthanasia.

The real grabber in the movie, though, is the thought of humans consuming other humans for their benefit. If the moviegoers of 1973 have lived long enough, they have seen this unthinkable idea come to pass.

An Associated Press article recently exposed the alleged use in Russian beauty salons of embryonic stem cells from aborted babies for everything from cellulite reduction to younger-looking skin. While trafficking in human body parts is illegal in Russia and the real nature of some of the purported stem cells is questionable, there has been no shortage of customers at the salons who apparently have no qualms about consuming other humans for cosmetic reasons.

Well, that's Russia. Right? Americans are too moral to stoop to such a level — or so one might be inclined to believe. One would be wrong.

Some time ago, the ABC television network newsmagazine 20/20 broadcast a segment on Opening Lines, a company run by physician Miles Jones. Opening Lines specializes in dissecting aborted babies to recover fetal body parts for profit. The company even has an order sheet, on which various "fresh" baby organs such as brain matter, nerve tissue, kidneys, livers, and limbs are offered to researchers. Working directly at abortion clinics, company employees immediately remove the baby's body parts and ship the parts across the world via overnight express.

Jones bragged in a secretly-taped session with a 20/20 producer posing as an investor that he collected about \$2,500 per aborted baby, and planned on expanding into Mexico and Canada to increase his supply of body parts. "If you control the flow, it's probably the equivalent of the invention of the assembly line," he said on tape. "It's market forces," he went on to say. "It's what you can sell it for."

The newsmagazine also reported that different abortion techniques are used when the procedure is performed to acquire body parts in big demand on the fetal tissue market, thereby increasing the pain and risk of injury to the mother. Companies that have employees standing by to dissect the babies even provide instructions and advice on how to best avoid damage to the most valuable body parts during an abortion.

"GOOD MORNING, FIRST CHURCH!
OPPOSING LOCAL HI-JINKS SINCE
1926 — MAY I HELP YOU?"



Miles Jones was subpoenaed to appear before a U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee investigating the body parts business, but his whereabouts today are unclear.

"It's the inevitable logical progression of a society that, like Darwin, believes we came from nothing," notes Gene Rudd, an obstetrician and member of the Christian Medical and Dental Society's Bioethics Commission, in an October 23, 1999 article by Lynn Vincent in World Magazine.

"When we fail to see life as sacred and ordained by God as unique, this is the reasonable conclusion... taking whatever's available to gratify our own self-interests and taking the weakest of the species first... like jackals. This is the inevitable slide down the slippery slope," he said.

Soylent Green, meet the world of today.

GUEST OPINION:

Heed warnings on substance abuse

By Joe McKeever, Director of Missions
Baptist Assoc. of Greater New Orleans

From the first, smoking a pipe was nothing like I expected—not comforting, not enjoyable, and definitely not relaxing. The obvious question is why did I not stop? I wish I had.

In December doctors removed the cancerous membrane under my tongue, and in late January began a series of thirty radiation treatments to kill pre-cancerous cells in the head and neck area. As I write this, I'm halfway through, but the side effects have arrived in full force.

These days, thanks to the radiation, I have a red face and sunburned neck. My tongue is thick and my saliva dried up. Food tastes like wood chips, and I have trouble swallowing. My diet is now totally liquid, and will be for the next six weeks. My doctor expects sores to appear in my mouth before we're finished.

Yesterday I noticed a bald patch in my beard. "It's permanent," the doctor said. "Radiation kills your hair follicles."

In the early days, doctors would pull your teeth before beginning radiation. Even now, decayed teeth have to come out. In my case, the orthodontist has me doing a fluoride treatment each night to protect my teeth from decay, something saliva did before we killed the glands through radiation. The treatment takes almost an hour, and is to be done nightly — forever.

I wonder two things: Why I ever started smoking and why I didn't stop soon afterward.

Why don't people give up habits that do them no good and endanger their lives?

Years ago, my wife and I joined a few thousand people

on a hillside in Richmond to see The Wiz, a delightful adaptation of The Wizard of Oz. One scene was so appropriate, I've never forgotten it.

The Tin Man was explaining to the Cowardly Lion how he came to be made of metal. "I was a lumberjack," he said, "and got hold of an enchanted axe. Once, when I was chopping wood, that axe cut off my arm. So I made me one of tin. Then it cut off the other arm, and I made another one of tin. Then, it cut off a leg, then the other leg, and before long, I was a tin man."

The lion exclaimed, "Man! Did you at any time think of getting you another axe?"

Substance Abuse Sunday will be observed across the Southern Baptist Convention on March 20. A great question for smokers, drinkers, and drug users and abusers: When something you are doing is not meeting your need but destroying you, why not quit?

It's not just that they can kill you. They can also mess up your good looks for a long time to come.

McKeever is a longtime Louisiana pastor, and a former Mississippi pastor and church staffer.

Schindlers anxious as time slipping away

CLEARWATER, Fla. (BP) — Mary Schindler says it has been a mother's intuition that has kept her off the rollercoaster of emotions surrounding her disabled daughter's case. "I knew Judge Greer was going to turn the motions down," Schindler told the Florida Baptist Witness March 11. "He's never done anything to help us before."

Schindler and her husband Bob are the parents of Terri Schiavo, the 41-year-old brain-damaged woman at the center of a debate over what some say is the most definitive case yet for legalized euthanasia in the United States.

Terri's problems began in 1990, when she suffered brain damage after her heart stopped. Since then, some doctors have said she is in a persistent vegetative state, but her parents and supporters contend she is in a minimally conscious state. She could improve were she provided rehabilitation services, they say, but Michael Schiavo, her legal husband, has refused to do so in recent years and has worked to have her feeding tube pulled.

Although Michael Schiavo says his wife would want to die, no written request from Terri exists and only he and his relatives have testified saying she would not wish to live. Michael has lived with his girlfriend, with whom he has fathered two children, for 10 years.

Florida Judge George W. Greer ruled Feb. 25 that Terri's nutrition and hydration be discontinued March 18, and in a flurry of decisions since that time he also has ruled that Terri cannot undergo more medical testing and cannot be fed by mouth. Greer also rebuffed a request by Florida's Department of Children and Families for a 60-day delay in the pulling of Schiavo's tube, so that the department could investigate allegations that Michael Schiavo

has abused and neglected Terri. Greer also refused to move forward a motion challenging his ruling that a witness who testified about Terri's end-of-life wishes was not credible.

Barbara Weller, an attorney with the Gibbs' Law Firm which represents the Schindlers, told the Florida Baptist Witness March 11 she understands the Schindlers' disillusionment with Greer. Weller said she was disappointed that Greer didn't take the motions more "seriously."

Weller said none of the 33 doctors who have said Terri should be medically reevaluated have been paid, and that all of them initiated contact with the firm. "Any other judge in the nation would have ruled for us," Weller said. "So, from the legal side, we were very surprised [with Greer's decisions]."

Weller said the firm will wait until next week to see what needs to happen next. The Second District Court of Appeals

is set to issue a ruling on issuing a stay and hearing an appeal connected with a motion Greer has denied. The appeal argues Terri has not received her constitutional right to due process.

Pending the resolution of that appeal, either the Second District Court of Appeals may order a stay in the case or the firm might quickly file an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court on an appeal related to her right to religious freedom.

"We are pretty much ready for any direction," Weller said. "Our decisions on what we will do will be based on how these things move along."

Weller said she is confident that the American people are outraged and confused about



FIGHT FOR LIFE — Mary Schindler (left) caresses her daughter Terri's face as she and Terri's father Bob fight for Terri's life against husband Michael, who wants all feeding and hydration tubes removed as soon as possible. (BP photo)

what she said are Greer's actions in the case, but she also said people may be ambivalent about taking a stand because of personal decisions they may have had to make about a loved one's end-of-life choices. Terri Schiavo, Weller said, is not hooked up to breathing or heart machines, instead depending on nutrition and hydration through a tube — and at one point was fed Jell-O and pudding until her husband stopped all efforts at rehabilitating her.

"This case is so far out of the ballpark of anything that has happened in America," Weller said. "We need to make sure we don't do these kinds of things in America, where a judge would starve a perfectly healthy woman to death because her husband wants her dead."

Bob Schindler said that in a letter he told Michael as early as 1993 — three years after Terri's collapse — that he and his wife Mary would understand if Michael gave Terri's care back to them. Michael and Terri had been married about five years at

MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST
Record

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SBC registration opens

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Online registration for the 2005 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting in Nashville, Tenn., April 1-4, 2005, will be available to register their messengers online. To avoid waiting at the registration booth in the resurrection volunteer, Jim Wells, SBC registration director, said online registration has received "a great response." Last year, 57.2% of messengers to the 2004 annual meeting in Indianapolis registered online, up from 40% for the 2003 annual meeting in Phoenix, the inaugural year for the annual meeting. Following online, the SBC website gives a church a "messenger reference number" form to be printed out and presented to each messenger at the SBC registration booth in exchange for a name tag and a set of ballots. The appropriate church-authorized representative must complete all online registration. The process includes entering information normally found on the traditional registration card. Online registration ends at midnight June 18 — after which registration must be done at the registration desk beginning at 4 p.m. June 19. Names can be added, edited, and deleted up to June 18 as well. Each messenger must present the printed form that shows the messenger's reference number — given on the website — at the registration booth in order to receive a name tag and set of ballots. Technically, a person is not a messenger until the messenger reference number is presented at the registration booth; but, unlike the traditional method, the person is pre-registered before he or she arrives to the convention.

Looking back

10 years ago

The dean of Southern Seminary's School of Social Work is fired after telling students that new standards instituted by seminary President Al Mohler will make it impossible for the school to hire qualified faculty.

20 years ago

Mississippi pastors begin receiving a "gift package" of Unification Church videotapes and books as a part of a \$10 million mail campaign to enlist support for church founder Sun Myung Moon, currently in U.S. federal prison for tax evasion.

50 years ago

Up to 1500 women from every section of Mississippi are expected in Jackson for the annual meeting of the state Woman's Missionary Union convention, according to Almarine Brown, president.

ACLU continuing assault on Boy Scouts

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ZI XF FUGKLF EPHNY-
FUZUC, CJG GFHAFYP
RZYP XJK HN RZYP NJUN;
IJL RPHY NJU ZN PF
RPJW YPF IHYPFL EPHNY-
FUFYP UJY?

PEDLFRN YRFAQF:NFQFU

Clue: I = F

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Second Peter One:Two

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) is removing the charters of thousands of scouting units from public schools after an American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) threat to sue taxpayer-funded institutions that charter BSA units.

The ACLU sent a letter to the Boy Scouts of America in February threatening legal action against public schools and other governmental agencies that charter Boy Scout groups on grounds that their sponsorship amounts to religious discrimination and violates the separation of church and state.

Boy Scouts open their **BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA** meetings by holding three fingers aloft and repeating an oath in which members vow their allegiance to God and country, resolve to help others and commit to keeping themselves morally straight. Central to the BSA's stated mission is character development and values-based leadership training.

ACLU leaders view these conservative emphases as warrant for legal action, according to documents on the ACLU website.

While BSA is continuing to assess the number of Boy Scout and Cub Scout units that will be affected, BSA national spokesman Gregg Shields said units whose charters will be pulled from public schools would number in the thousands. BSA is America's largest youth organization that includes thousands of units and 1.3 million adult volunteers.

Defending against a wave of ACLU lawsuits would cost schools untold thousands of dollars, Shields said. Instead of

risking financially draining litigation, the BSA is pulling scout units from schools as a matter of stewardship, he said.

"We obviously don't want that [expensive lawsuits against schools] to happen," Shields said. "Instead, the Boy Scouts have tried to protect the resources of our education partners by moving our charter from public schools to other community-based organizations such as parent-teacher organizations or Salvation Army units or nearby religious organizations."

Shields said the Boy Scouts of America is counting on community organizations such as churches to take up the charters of scouting units

that have been removed from public schools and other governmental organizations.

Removal of a scouting unit's charter from a school will not necessarily remove its presence from the school, Shields said, noting that groups will still have access to public school facilities; they just won't be chartered by the schools.

"Boy Scout troops will still have the same rights as any other community-based group to meet in school buildings, but the charter will not be held by the school administration," he said.

"We hope to make this a seamless transition that won't even be noticed by the youth and barely noticed by our 1.3 million generous volunteers who give their time to help American youth," Shields said.

Shields said community groups already have begun to fill the void left by the shift from public school charters.

While many churches already sponsor Cub Scout packs, Shields urges many others to get involved in all levels of scouting, an institution whose core values can fit well within the standards of most conservative evangelical congregations.

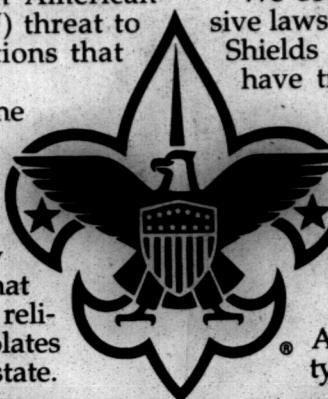
Churches can help in two ways, he said: by seeking to pick up a scout unit charter from a local school or by starting a new scout troop. He pointed out that charters involve very little money and merely provide individual units with an official place to meet and organize their activities.

"[Chartering a scouting unit] is not a complicated process," Shields said. "Many churches find scouting so in line with the mission of the church that they'll use Boy Scouting as an auxiliary to their youth program.... The values of the Boy Scouts certainly fit well with my church and I think they would most others."

The ACLU's threat also precludes other government organizations such as police, fire and recreation departments from holding charters for scouting units. BSA will seek groups such as fire and police department auxiliaries to pick up these charters, Shields said, but far more scout units are chartered by public schools than other governmental agencies.

The latest threat of litigation is the latest chapter in a 25-year assault the ACLU has waged against the Boy Scouts. The ACLU has sued BSA 14 times over the past 25 years using similar accusations, Shields said.

The most widely publicized case involved a U.S. Supreme Court decision in 2000 upholding a New Jersey troop's removal of an assistant scoutmaster after it became known that the man was an avowed homosexual.



PREACHING POINTS



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50/50 SATISFACTION

Did you happen to see the results of the survey of American workers asking if they were happy with their job? The results revealed that American workers are divided 50/50. About 50% of them are happy with their work and about 50% are unhappy. According to the folks who conducted the survey, the number of people happy with their work is down about nine percent from a decade ago. If the survey stats are accurate, and I have no reason to think that they are not, there are many unhappy folks in the workplace in America. In fact, if you have to deal with two of them, the percentage odds are that you will get to meet one of these folks. If you are married and you and your spouse both work, the odds are that one of you is an unhappy soul at work, and if you are unhappy at work, you might bring some of it home.

As I heard this statistical report I wondered what the survey was telling us about us. I wondered if the 50% who are unhappy in their work are just unhappy, period. If the truth be known they are unhappy at work, at home, with friends, alone, driving a car, going to church, eating a meal, or trying the latest diet. There are some folks who are unhappy wherever you put them and regardless of what they are doing. Ask them about their job and of course, they are unhappy. They know no other



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

way of life. They would be unhappy if they were happy because they would be confident that something was going to go wrong that would make them unhappy.

I wonder too how many of the folks answered that they were not happy in their job because they have a warped view of happiness. In the founding documents of our country it says that there are certain inalienable rights among which include the right of the pursuit of happiness. That is more of an American idea than it is a biblical truth but sometimes they are mixed in with each other. In the American culture we have created this kind of euphoric American dream that causes folks to think that they are always under every condition and every circumstance with everybody supposed to have a tingling good feeling and be the recipient of waves of happiness. It doesn't happen that way and it is not going to happen that way. Neither is it the right of everyone to demand a bucket of happiness everyday. Sometimes in life and often on the job there are demands and challenges that require attention and hard work. They are not bad things and to

give yourself fully to accomplishing some task brings about a joy which was not present in the process. Sometimes at work there are people and issues that must be dealt with when if done properly can bring about satisfaction and joy that would not be there otherwise, but they are missing on the surface. Sadly, in America we have conveyed that happiness is a right that we can demand or possibly it is a commodity that we can go around handing out to folks.

Every experience in life is not and neither should it be laced with good time feelings called happiness. There are experiences in life and challenges that come that are not in any way enjoyable, fun, delightful, or happy, and yet the end result can be a good experience laced with meaning, purpose, and achievement.

In the book of Hebrews, the Bible describes Jesus as "enduring the cross and despising the shame for the joy that was set before Him." It takes wisdom and spiritual insight to recognize that going through difficulties and trials can lead to joy. It did for Jesus and it can for you.

Let's go back to the 50/50 happy/unhappy with their job survey. More than likely today you will run into some folks in each category. Some of them will have varying degrees of joy or dread about their job. To the folks in the 50% I am glad about what I am doing category, I have gotten to where I cannot pass them up without thanking them, trying to encourage them, and in some way trying to bless them. It does not matter if they are waiting tables or singing a song, whether they are repairing a car or playing a game, selling clothes or serving in the Legislature. Folks who enjoy doing their job get my attention and deserve my praise. I just like folks who like their job. Folks who don't like their job, I don't want them doing their job around me. Just think about it! I want a doctor treating me who likes his job and a dentist who enjoys what he is doing. I want a pastor who loves his work. A cashier who enjoys what he is doing blesses me and people who serve the Lord with unashamed enthusiasm impress me. No wonder the Bible says in the Book of Songs, "Serve the Lord with gladness. Come before his presence with singing." Enjoy doing for the Lord what the Lord gives you opportunity to do. I pray that the Lord will always find us on the 50% side of folks who love doing what they are doing, especially when we are doing it for Him.

The author may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.

YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (*I have sinned.*)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (*I repent.*)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (*I believe in Jesus.*)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (*I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.*)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



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Bible Drill Camp set July 7-9

The Older Children's Bible Drill Camp 2005 will be held July 7-9 at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko. The camp is open to children who have completed third, fourth, fifth, or sixth grades. In addition to Bible skills and studies, camp activities will include Scripture memorization, time with missionaries, worship, swimming, horseback riding, and canoeing. Total cost per person is \$90, with a \$45 deposit at time of registration. To download the event brochure containing the registration form, go to www.mbc.org, then use search function to locate the file titled: Older Children BD camp. For more information, contact Don Hicks at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3287 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 287. E-mail: dhicks@mbcb.org.



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INSURANCE

JUST FOR THE RECORD

1. Salem Church, Tylertown, recently held a recognition service for their RA's. The RA's were presented with vests and patches they earned. Shown are the RA's and their leaders.
2. The children of Mt. Carmel Church, Edinburg, collected food for Leake Association in February. They decorated boxes to hold the food on Valentine's Day and delivered the food to Joe Abel, Associational Director of Missions. Shown are the children and Abel, standing in back.
3. The 1st-6th grade GA group of North Carrollton Church, North Carrollton, held a food drive to replenish the church's food pantry. This completes one of the required World Venture project and each GA will receive a patch for participating in the project. Shown, from left, are Ann Marie McClain, Katie Holman, Maggie Lloyd, Molly Davis, Allie Dunn, and Taylor McArthur.
4. Oak Grove Church, Prentiss, recently held a reception in honor of Gerald and Nell Aultman's thirty-fourth wedding anniversary.
5. Oak Grove Church, Prentiss, recently observed Deacon Appreciation services. Shown left to right: Frank Creel, Tommy Bullock, Jack Berry, Floyd Broome, Robert "Bud" Bass, Jimmy Rogers, and S.L. Rogers.
6. Short Creek Church, Yazoo City, recently ordained Douglas Johnston into the ministry on Oct. 24. His wife Polly, pastor Alan Balliet, and associational director Billy Dowdy were present. While Johnson's main calling is street ministry, he is available for pulpit supply. You may contact him at (662) 746-8621 or (662) 571-4998.
8. Tim Parker, pastor of New Hope Church, Foxworth, presented Beth Brumfield with the "Certified Ministry Assistant" certificate from Lifeway on Feb. 6, which she successfully completed the requirements for on Dec. 7. Shown are Parker and Brumfield.
9. Cedar View Church, Olive Branch, will have a community singing event on Sat., Mar. 19, featuring the Providentials Quartet. Call (662) 895-2661 for more information.
10. Mission Campers, a project of the International Mission Board, participated in Operation Go Mexico in February.

They helped Peniel Church, Guadalajara, saturate the community with 4,055 Gospels resulting in nine professions of faith and thirty requests for Bible studies at home. Shown below are Jim Repto, Harvey and Betty

- McCrimmon, Benford and Bobbie Watkins, Jerry and Peggy Estes, Rickey and Edith Youngblood, and Bill and Fannie Dowdy.
11. Branch Church, Morton, hosted the fourth annual

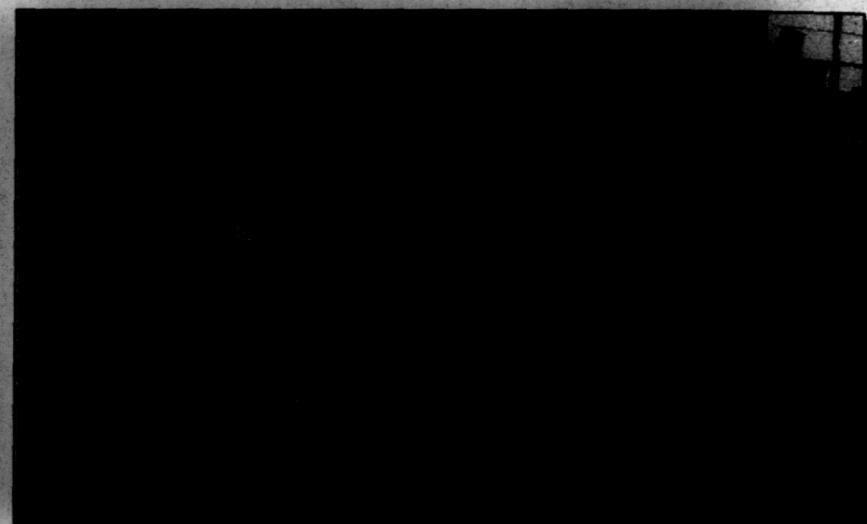
prayer breakfast. Shown are the attending farmers from the Rankin and Scott area.

12. Baptist Women's Services of Baptist Health Systems is accepting nominations through Apr. 8 for one of five

"Strong Women" awards being given May 5. Honorees can be nominated in the categories of Perseverance, Leader, Mentor, Defender, or Promise. For information, visit www.mbhs.org or call (800) 948-6262.



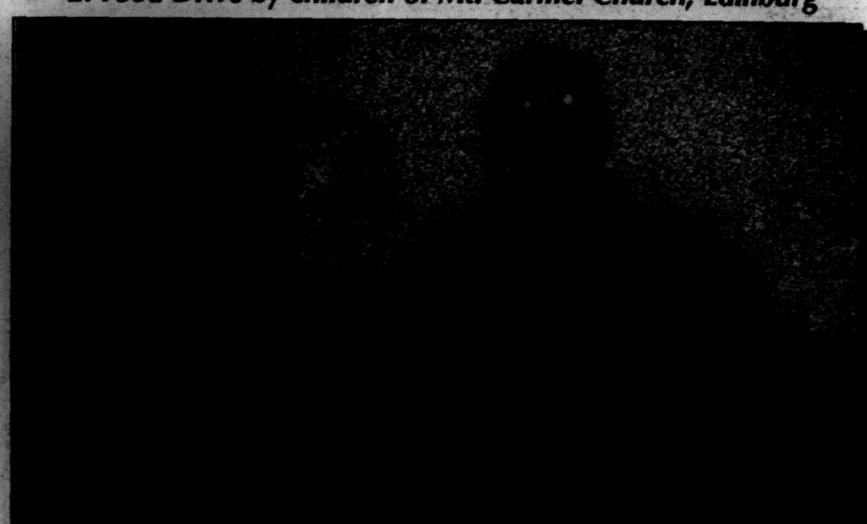
1. RA Recognition, Salem Church, Tylertown



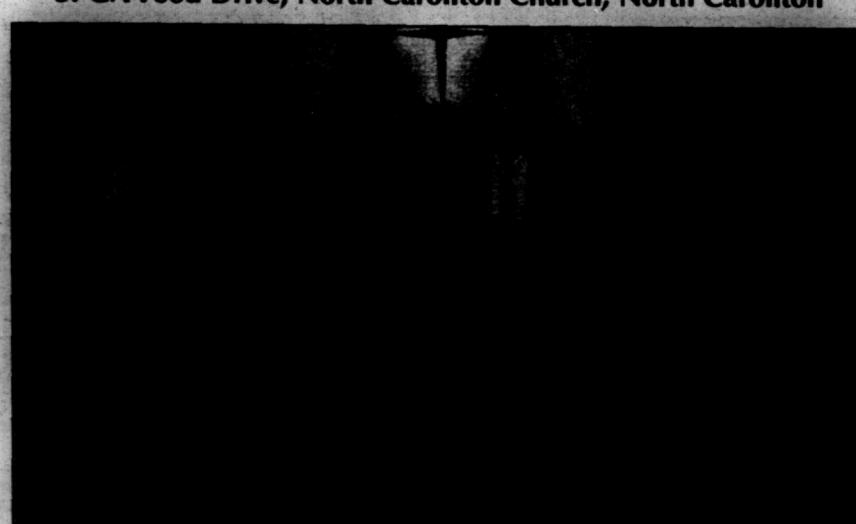
2. Food Drive by children of Mt. Carmel Church, Edinburg



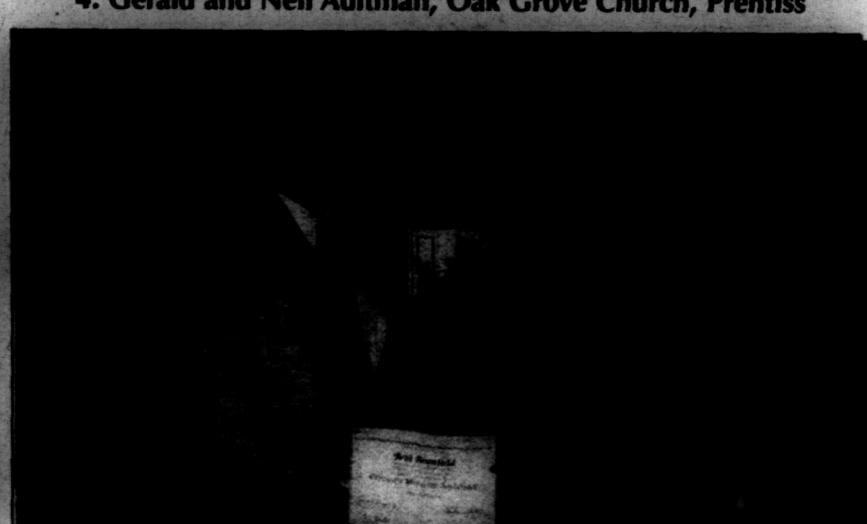
3. GA Food Drive, North Carrollton Church, North Carrollton



4. Gerald and Nell Aultman, Oak Grove Church, Prentiss



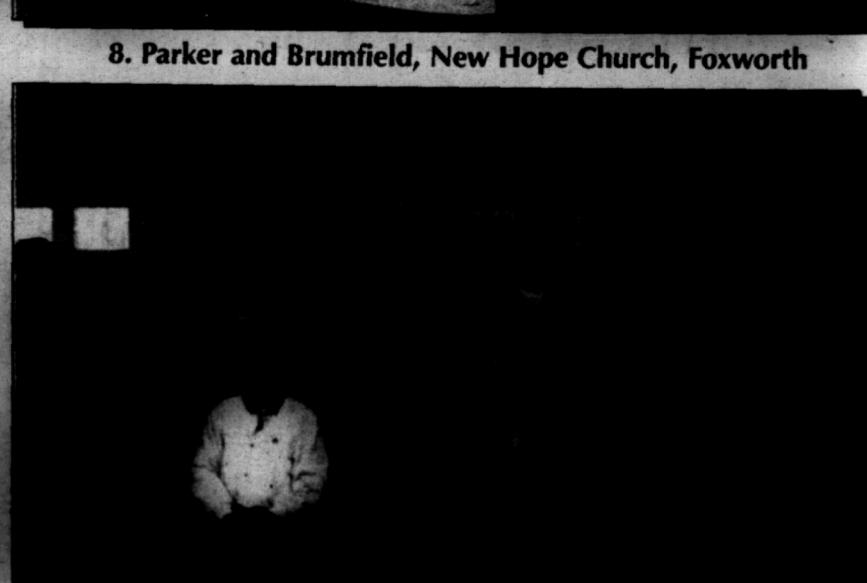
5. Deacon Appreciation, Oak Grove Church, Prentiss



8. Parker and Brumfield, New Hope Church, Foxworth



10. Campers On Mission



11. Prayer Breakfast, Branch Church, Morton

JUST FOR THE RECORD

13. Greg Slay received the national Good Shepherd Adult Recognition Award in February for his outstanding service to the youth of Oak Hill Church, Meridian, in his community. Slay has worked with R.A.'s for six years. Shown are Spence Baicum, Devin Richardson, Garrett Slay, Slay, Blake Stewart, and Neal Grogan.

14. The GAs of West Ripley Church, Ripley, raised \$1042.63 for the Lottie Moon Christmas by delivering Christmas cards to church members for donations and by saving money at home. They also raised \$454.58 for the tsunami victims by hosting a bake sale. Shown are Christian Booker, Dezi Roberson, Rachel Walker, and Jade Garrison.

15. Baptist Men's Day at Calvary Church, Pascagoula, was celebrated with a men's dessert cook-off. Shown are the participants.

16. James Emery Hill was licensed to the ministry on Jan. 30 by Plainway Church, Laurel. He is recommended for supply from his church and pastor, J. Nonnie Jefcoat. He can be reached at (601) 428-8433. Shown are Jefcoat and Hill.

17. Belden Church, Belden, congratulates their children's Bible Drillers. Shown top, left: Emilie Sanders, Cassidy Blaylock, Lara Nanney, Bailey Scott, Hayley Asters, Carley Carruth, Ethan Phillips, Stormy Payne; front row, left: Caleb and Daniel Fairley.

18. Belden Church, Belden, congratulates the girls' basketball team for a great season and demonstrating a Christian attitude on and off the courts. Shown back row, left: coach Reeta Roper, Lara Nanney, Kaylen Webb, Hayley Asters, Kayla Kelly, Stormy Payne, assistant coach Steven Nanney. Front row, left: Cassidy Blaylock, Kristen Lewis, Carley Carruth, and Bailey Scott.

19. The youth group of North Columbia Church, Columbia, successfully presented a Valentine's banquet for the church. Shown front row, left: Justin Hibley. Second row, left: Bree Dement, Ben Sanford, Nick Sanders, Ryan Scarborough, TeeJay Rainey, and Heather Greenlee. Third row, left: Anna

20. First Church, Laurel, will host Holy Week services March 20-27. Services are Sunday morning and evening Mon.-Wed. at noon and Wed., 6 p.m.; Thurs., noon and 6 p.m.; Fri., noon, and Easter Sun., 10:30 a.m. Complimentary lunch served Mon.-Fri. after the noon services. The public is invited.

21. During DiscipleNow weekend, the youth of Bellevue Church, Pontotoc, learned about missions. The girls furnished baskets for the elderly and a led a mission project in the inner city of Jackson.

22. West Salem Church, Green County, will present Marty Park's Thank You for the Cross, Mar. 25, 7 p.m. and Mar. 26, 6 p.m.

23. Williamsburg Church, Collins, will show The Passion of the Christ Mar. 25 at the church. Supper at 6 p.m., movie at 7 p.m. Child-care provided; call (601) 765-6536 for information.

24. Fernwood Church, Gulfport, will have special Palm Sunday services, Mar. 20, 11 a.m.; Maundy Thursday, Mar. 24, 6 p.m.; Good Friday, Mar. 25, 6 p.m.; and Easter musical presentation Mar. 27, 11 a.m. For information, call (228) 896-4556.

25. Judas, a one-man play written and performed by John Maxwell, will be presented Mar. 19, 6:30 p.m., at The Church at Northshore, Brandon. The church will host Easter services Mar. 27 at 10 a.m. Phone (601) 829-1600 for information.

26. Leesburg Church, Morton, will present the Easter musical and drama, You Thought of Us, Mar. 19 and 20, 7 p.m. Phone (601) 854-5306 for information.

27. Ronnie Cottingham will be in concert at Macedonia Church, Petal, Mar. 20, 6 p.m. Phone (601) 545-3110 for information.

28. Clarke College Alumni will meet at Calvary Church, Newton, Apr. 16, from 9 a.m. to noon. Sammy Gibreath, evangelism director for Ala. Baptists will be the featured speaker. Representatives from the Class of 1975 will provide inspirational music. A "dutch treat" luncheon will take place after the meeting at BoRo's Restaurant.

29. McCall Creek Church, McCall Creek, will dedicate their new sanctuary on Apr. 3 at 10:45 a.m. with lunch and singing afterward. For more information, call (601) 532-6674 or (601) 532-6346.



13. RA's, Oakhill Church, Meridian



14. GA's, West Ripley Church, Ripley



15. Baptist Men's Day Cook-off, Calvary Church, Pascagoula



16. Jefcoat and Hill, Plainway Church, Laurel



17. Children's Bible Drillers, Belden Church, Belden



18. Girls' Basketball, Belden Church, Belden



19. Youth, North Columbia Church, Columbia

REVIVALS

Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth: Revival, Mar. 20-23, Sun. 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:00 p.m. Jerry George, evangelist.

Eddiceton Church, Franklin County: Revival, Mar. 20-25, Sun., 11 a.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:00 p.m. Gene Douglas, evangelist; Mike Morris, pastor. For information call (601) 567-2370.

Holly Church, Alcorn County: Revival, Apr. 3-6, Sun. 11 a.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m. Randy Isbell, evangelist; Randy Wood, music; Tony Morrow, pastor. For information, call (662) 286-3474.

First Church, Belzoni: Revival, Apr. 3-6, preaching by Joe Pate of First Church, Greenwood; music by Billy Causey of First Church, Raymond.

Forrest Hill Church, Baldwyn: Revival, Apr. 17-20, Sun., 6:00 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:00 p.m. Earl Barron, evangelist; Music led by Michael Barron; Clyde Patton, pastor.

Mt. Olivet Church, Scott: Revival, Apr. 24-27; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Doyle Boyles, evangelist; Glenn Hayman, pastor. For more information, call (601) 625-9402.

Revival results: Tate Church, Corinth, Feb. 20-23; 25 professions of faith; four by letter/statement. Danny Lanier, evangelist; Gregg Thomas, pastor.

STAFF CHANGES

Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto: has called Trent Bilbo as pastor. Bilbo comes from Calvary Church, Columbia. He and his wife Renee have two children.

OBITUARY

Byron R. Malone, 68, died Mar. 6, after suffering a stroke while preaching and died a short time later at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center. Services were held at Southern Hills Church, Jackson, and interment was at Mt. Zion Church, New Hope Community, near Columbus.

Malone, with degrees from Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary, served several churches in Mississippi, including Daniel Memorial Church and Southern Hills Church, Jackson.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara Jean; son Byron Lee; daughters Jennifer Crowe and Cindy Townsend; seven grandchildren; two brothers and a sister.

COLLEGE NEWS

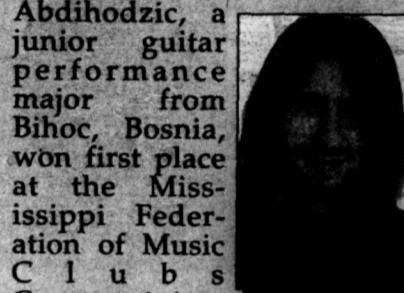
1. United States Federal District Judge Keith Starrett was guest speaker at the Mississippi College (MC) School of Law Christian Legal Society's Annual Spring Prayer Luncheon, Mar. 4. Andy Hoffecker, professor of church history, Reformed Theological Seminary spoke at the Mar. 8 meeting of the Christian Legal Society.

2. Mississippi College will sponsor a trip to the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit, Mobile, Ala., Apr. 26. Cost is \$57, which includes buffet lunch, motor coach transportation, and admission to the exhibit. For more information, call Michael Johnson at (601) 925-3296 or email at mjohnson@mc.edu.

3. Lalchungnuna, principal of Serampore College, India, will serve as guest speaker at a Jubilee Celebration, Mar. 21, 9:30 a.m., in the Smith Auditorium on the Hattiesburg Campus of William Carey College (WCC). Serampore College was founded by William Carey and his colleagues in 1818.

4. Rebekah Berry, Silver City, a senior religion major, WCC, was selected as one of the University Ministerial Scholars in the twelfth entering class at George W. Truett Theological Seminary. This scholarship covers her entire tuition in the divinity program at Baylor University.

5. WCC student Armin Abdihodzic, a junior guitar performance major from Bihoc, Bosnia, won first place at the Mississippi Federation of Music Clubs Competition held recently. He competed against 14 other guitarists from the state.



Abdihodzic



6. HEDWAE Recipients, WCC



7. Capt. Wendy Wilkins, master of science in nursing major, WCC-on the Coast, was recently named Keesler Air Force Base's Nurse of the Year for the 81st Medical Group.

HOECOMINGS

Plainway Church, Laurel: homecoming, Apr. 3, to commemorate its fifty-fifth anniversary. Kent Megehee, speaker, will be honored for his service of thirteen years as pastor. Covered dish and fellowship to follow the morning service. Former members and general public invited to attend.

Calvary Church, Saratoga: homecoming, Apr. 3, 11 a.m., with dinner on the ground and singing with Carolin Norris and the Revelations.

www.mbc.org



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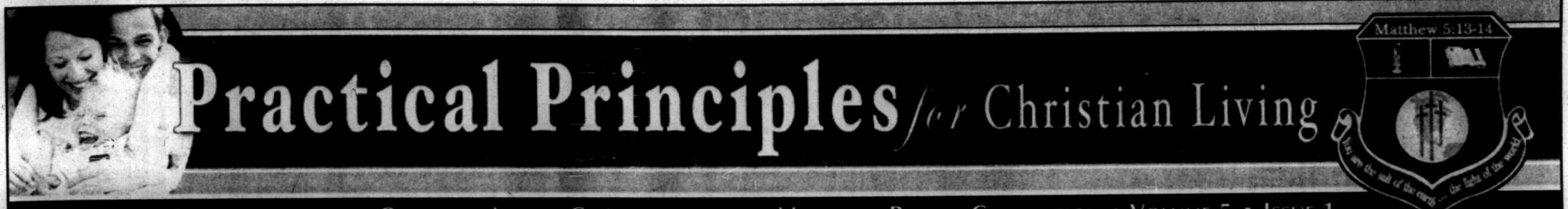
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A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMISSION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION • VOLUME 5 • ISSUE 1

Christians Have Long Known the Origin of Species

By Lee Yancey

Fossils have fascinated me since I can remember. My favorite book as a first grader was *Danny and the Dinosaur*. As I grew as a Christian I began to ask questions that yielded few results. Where do the dinosaurs fit into the Bible? Were they too big to get on the ark? Does the Loch Ness Monster exist? What about Bigfoot? And what about the anthropological fossil evidence of half-apes and half-men? How is the Christian to work through the fossil evidence? Scientists have discovered ways of dating fossils through the use of Carbon-14 and Radiometric dating determining the half-lives of elements and their rates of deterioration. Are these methods foolproof? Is the earth literally six thousand some odd years old or is it millions of years old? Did life on earth as we know it begin with a one-

celled amoeba and evolve into the many different varieties of animal kind we have today?

I don't think so, and let me tell you why. Since Charles Darwin published his *Origin of Species* in 1859, more questions have been raised than answers, yet the scientific community defends Darwin as if science itself is dependent on the propagation of the theory of evolution. In fact, last month *World* magazine reported that scientists at the Smithsonian Institute are punishing one of their own for simply

publishing an article about Intelligent Design, a theory that suggests that all creation had to have had a Creator. According

to *World*, "Stephen Meyer, who holds a Ph.D. from Cambridge and is a research fellow at the Discovery Institute, wrote an article entitled 'The Origin of Biological Information and the Higher Taxonomic Categories.' As Mr. Meyer explained it to *World*, his article deals with the so-called Cambrian Explosion, that point in the fossil record in which dozens of distinct animal

organs, and new species requires specific 'biological information.' And 'information invariably arises from conscious rational activity.' That flies in the face of the Darwinist assumption that biological origins are random" (*World*, "Science's New Heresy Trial", February 19, 2005, p. 26). Mr. Meyer says that many other scientists secretly agree with elements of Intelligent

Design but are afraid to go public. The attempts of the Smithsonian Institute to suppress Intelligent Design indicate how insecure they are in defending evolution. According to Meyer, "You don't resort to authoritarianism if you can answer it."

So, here we are again stuck in a quagmire of questions, searching for our origins. Every week it seems, I see a new headline in the newspaper, "Bones May Be Human's Earliest Walking Ancestor" or "Researchers Say Hobbit-like Humans Had Complex Brain." In these articles, these ape-like fossils have the characteristics

of humans who walked upright (unlike apes) and had larger brains than apes. In some cases, stone tools were found with the bones. I don't see anything in the Genesis account that correlates with these fossils. Yet I understand that not everything that has happened in history is recorded in the Scriptures. Ultimately, most of our questions will remain unanswered, at least until we are caught up in the air, in the twinkling of an eye. The same God who is able to save us, to raise His Son from the grave, who created the heavens and the earth, will answer all our questions, if they even matter to us then. The origin of species really comes down to faith. If you believe the Bible, you know that the One behind Intelligent Design is our Creator. Genesis 1:1 reveals the origin of species, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."

Lee Yancey is a consultant with the Christian Action Commission. He can be reached at lyancey@christianaction.com.



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FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Jesus Our Sacrifice

John 19:28-37; Hebrews 9:22-26

By Rick Henson

Noted psychologist Karl Menninger wrote a book in the 1980's entitled, "Whatever Became of Sin?" Menninger wrote that modern sophisticated people do not want to admit that right and wrong exists. He said that people seek to justify their sins, but that all are ultimately responsible for their actions. He was right. The world does not want to recognize that sin exists. If we all admit that sin exists, then we are all sinners and are accountable to God for our actions. Saying that we are not accountable does not make it so. Abraham Lincoln was debating one of his presidential challengers. Lincoln asked his opponent, "If you count a cow's tail as a leg, how many legs does a cow have?" The would-be-president

answered, "Five." Lincoln shook his head no and said, "Four. Saying a cow's tail is a leg doesn't make it a leg." Saying sin is not sin does not erase it or our accountability.

The most frequent New Testament word used for sin is *harmatia*, which means, "missing the mark." This word was derived from an archer's failed attempt to hit the target. It means that the archer not only failed to hit the bulls-eye; he missed the entire target. In our relationship with God we all fall short of the glory of God. We not only miss the bulls-eye; we miss the target entirely. Many years ago a traveler walked into a town and noticed that everywhere he looked was a target with an arrow directly in the middle. He asked someone who was the



Henson

great archer. The man laughed and answered that was the work of the village simpleton. The traveler said, "He must be a great archer." The townsman chuckled and said, "He is not a great archer. He goes around shooting arrows and then paints a target wherever they land."

Many are like that simpleton with their sins. We miss the target with our lives, and then proclaim we ended up where we aimed.

Since we all have sin we all need a sacrifice. Hebrews 9:22 reads, "all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission." Ephesians 2:9 warns us that we cannot be forgiven by our own efforts. In God's great mercy He provided the needed sacrifice — Jesus Christ.

When Jesus was on the cross paying for our sins, he cried out, "It is finished." The Greek word used in John 19:30 is "tetelestai." This grammatical form of this word signifies comple-

ted action that finished or paid for something. The word was also used to signify that a debt had been paid in full. So Jesus was shouting that the debt for our sins was paid in full. Hallelujah! Hebrews 9:13 reads, "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

In Exodus 12 God commanded the Jews to sacrifice a male lamb without blemish, cook and eat it, and put its blood on the doorpost of their homes. The night that the Death Angel would come to execute God's vengeance on the Egyptians for their rebellious hearts, the Death Angel would then pass over the homes where the blood had been applied, hence the name, Passover. As recorded in John 1:29 John the Baptist proclaimed about Jesus "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." The lambs slain in obedience that

first Passover were a symbol of what was to come. Hebrews 10:19-20 reads, "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh." Jesus is the new and living way by which we are saved. Jesus is the Passover lamb that takes away the sins of the world. When we apply His blood to the doors of our hearts in faith and repentance, the Death Angel passes over and our names are written down in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Since we all are sinners and need a sacrifice to pay for our sins, and since our best is not enough to remove even one of our sins, Jesus willingly offered up Himself to be that Passover lamb. We owed a debt we could not pay, and He paid a debt He did not owe. Jesus is our Sacrifice.

Rick Henson is pastor of Oakdale Baptist Church, Brandon.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Demonstrate Your Trust in God

Jeremiah 7:1-15

By Billie Buckley

What do you need today? Let's make a list: clean up your act; welcome Christ into your neighborhood; get smart; look deeper into God's word for the truth you have lost.

All of the above can be found in Jeremiah 7. For the people of Judah, truth had disappeared. What took its place? False stuff. If we were to color a picture of this, all dark colors would be used. Dark colors for their false gods, fickle people, misplaced security, and unconfessed sins.

Picture with me Jeremiah giving a true or false test. The questions all relate to living by God's standards. For every true answer they would write false; for every false answer true. Needless to say, they failed the test.

Why? They didn't prepare for



Buckley

it. Jeremiah tried to tutor them, but they refused. Why? They refused to believe they would not get another chance to take the test over. Their destination was Babylon. Why? It was a result of misplaced trust, a hypocritical lifestyle and a failure to heed Jeremiah's warning. These we must avoid.

Avoid Misplaced Trust (vv. 1-4) Jeremiah is standing at the temple door. This message was to temple goers. Today it is to church goers. He warned about the consequences of evil ways and foolish confidence in a place instead of a personal God. "Do not be fooled by those who promise safety because the temple is here." (v.4)

In this word picture there are three truths for today. The first is to avoid placing your trust in a place and not a

person. I love the church, but being sentimental over church buildings or programs is the beginning of twisted trust leading to empty buildings and empty people.

The second truth for today is over goose bump addictions to charismatic preachers and Bible study leaders. We need to stop living vicariously through their walk with God. Be encouraged by them, but go beyond their experience to your own personal face-to-face beholding of Him.

Today's third truth is over music madness in His house. To settle this madness see if you can hum this old tune, "Bringing in the sheaves. We shall come rejoicing bringing in the sheaves." That, my church-going friend, is one test for worthy worship. Does it bring others into God's house and presence? It's not about pleasing you and me. We are already home. It's about worshiping God by

bringing those outside the fold into His presence.

Reform Your Hypocritical Lifestyle (vv. 5-11) In order to reform, God gave a pattern. It's similar to what we tell children about fire: Stop. Drop. Roll. Let's apply this pattern to Jeremiah's words about the degraded devotion of His people.

Stop (vv. 5, 6, 9): Stop your wicked thoughts and actions, being unfair, exploiting the weak and worshipping empty idols thus becoming empty yourselves. Sound familiar? We call it The Ten Commandments or the law pointing us to the need of His presence and forgiveness.

Drop (v. 7): Drop on our knees to receive His gift of mercy allowing us to remain in the land of His presence. Here we can hear God's voice as being a picture of love stripping itself to clothe His wayward children.

Roll (v. 8, 10): Roll away from a false sense of security based on your going to the "temple" then going and doing any way you please. This is red-handed rebelling against God's standards. He will hold us accountable.

Heed Warnings against Disobedience (vv.12-15) Jeremiah gives us three warnings. Warning One: Remember Shiloh. The temple in Northern Israel was located in Shiloh and had already been destroyed. The warning is for us not to use the church as a hideout for facing up to our sins.

Warning Two: Remember to Listen. It is not about our church-going image or belonging to a social group. It's about the presence of God changing lives from a focus on self to focusing on right relationships with Him and others. Listen to Him.

Warning Three: Remember who I Am. In v. 15 He reminds us, "I'm the one in authority, not false religious leaders. I'm the One with the power to destroy. Yet, I long to go home with you after church."

Today, we have no need to go to a place called Shiloh because of our sins. We can go to a place called Calvary for forgiveness of our sins.

Buckley is a member of Petal Harvey Church, Petal.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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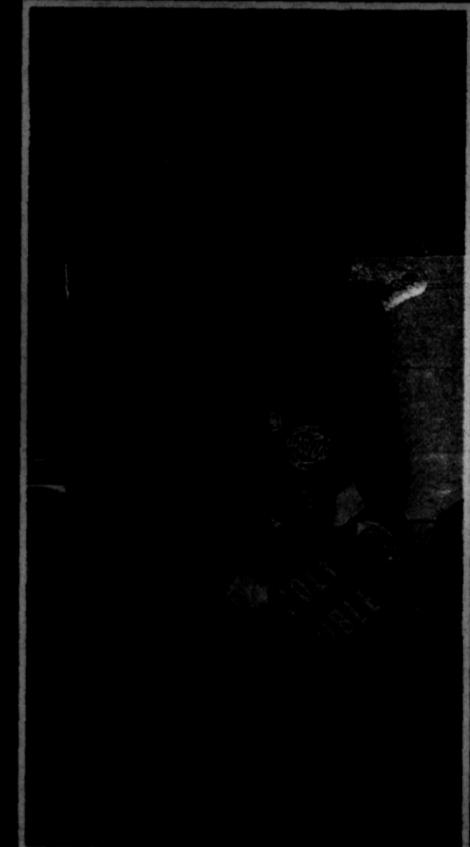
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